GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:625
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
SHORTAGE OF BSNL SIM CARDS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for short supply of BSNL SIM Card against its demand in the country;

(b) the time by which the demand subscribers is likely to be met;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to solve the problem of network in the areas facing this problem; and

(d) the number of people targeted to be provided SIM Cards during the year 2005-06 and the number of applications of subscribers lying pending?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited`s(BSNL) cellular services has been well received by the public and as a result its services has been subscribed by around 1,02,51,184 subscribers against a capacity of 1,03,47,573 lines. The release of connections is controlled temporarily in various parts of the country as a result of constraint in capacity.

(b)&(c)BSNL has already taken action to place purchase Order to expand its cellular network by 14 M lines across the country. The network roll out is in various stages of progress and the capacities are being realized since last month and it is expected that the entire planned capacity will be available during the current financial year.

(d) BSNL has set a target of releasing 65 lakhs cellular connections during the current financial year. As on 30.06.2005, around 13,86,076 applicants are in waiting list seeking BSNL cellular connections.